

Message Text

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56

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 EUR-12

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IZ, IR

SUBJ: SHIP VISIT TO KHORRAMSHAHR/ABADAN

REF: TEHRAN 12591

1. PRESENCE OF US NAVY SHIP IN SHATT WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE IRAQI REGIME NERVOUS. THEY WOULD PROBABLY INTERPRET IT AS USG ATTEMPT TO EMPLOY GUN-BOAT DIPLOMACY AGAINST IRAQ AND WOULD NO DOUBT CONCLUDE THAT IT MASKED HOSTILE USG INTENTIONS. THEY MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR CONCERNS DEPENDING ON WHETHER THEY HAD OTHER REASONS FOR WISHING TO AVOID DETERIORATION IN GOI-USG RELATIONS AT THE TIME.

2. DIRECTOR OF WESTERN DIVISION IN POLITICAL DEPT. OF FONMIN TOLD ME IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSION LAST DECEMBER THAT IRAQ WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL USG MILITARY PRESENCE WITHDRAWN FROM AREA. HE SAID IRAQ BELIEVED THAT FORCES OF ARAB NATIONALISM WERE ADEQUATE TO CONTAIN RUSSIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN MIDDLE EAST AND THAT SOVIET PRESENCE WOULD PROBABLY DIMINISH WITH WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. PRESENCE.

3. WHILE RESOLUTION OF SHATT PROBLEM REMOVES LEGAL BASIS FOR POSSIBLE IRAQI PROTEST, GOI SUSPICIONS CONCERNING U.S. INTEN-
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TIONS IN AREA REMAIN INTENSE. ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE POSSIBLE

BENEFITS OF U.S. NAVY SHIP VISIT TO KHORRAMSHAHR/ABADAN
ARE OUTWEIGHED BY POSSIBLE SETBACK IT COULD CAUSE TO OUR
CAREFUL EFFORTS TO NURTURE BETTER USG-GOI RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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